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St. Denis Hall 1890-1981: A Tribute

University of Windsor

University of Windsor, Student Administrative Council

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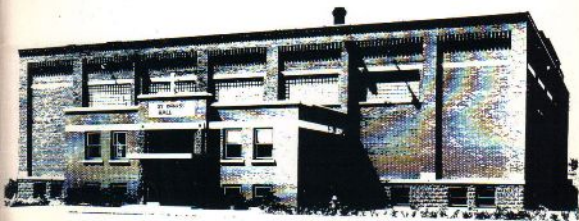
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St. Denis Hall 1890-1981



A Tribute...



The students, Faculty, alumni and staff of the University of Windsor and citizens of the City of Windsor will be witnessing in the next six months, the closing of one of Windsor's most historical sports centre and the opening of the new multi-purpose complex built by the same people who used St. Denis Hall.

We at the Students' Administrative Council felt it to be imperative that a brochure be published representing the activities: sports, cultural and educational that has taken place over the some odd 80 years of existence.

With the help of a number of citizens in the community and the Faculty of Human Kinetics, Dr. Gordon Olafson and Dr. Dick Moriarty, we were able to produce this small reminder of St. Denis Hall. While it is by no means of definitive history of this noble edifice, it does provide some insight in its distinguished past.

As students of the University of Windsor, we are proud of the heritage of this great institution. Seeing St. Denis Hall close brings an era to an end but through this brochure, the history and heritage of this grand edifice will survive in our minds and the minds of those inquisitive youngsters down the road wanting to discover the rich past that we are all proud of. As the unveiling of our new sports complex becomes a reality, our efforts will be focusing and building upon the rich past that St. Denis Hall has fostered.

Remembering St. Denis Hall



Original building before the post-war expansion.

Students' Administrative Council Publications

With only three weeks to assemble this brochure its amazing it was finished at all. Special thanks goes to Dr. Moriarty and company for doing all the leg work and providing the necessary encouragement. Jim Shaban of SAC for developing the project. The Lance production facilities and especially John Rinopoulos and Ed McMahon for their invaluable technical assistance. Special mention should also go to Cindy Hartogs, Lance Typewriter, for putting in slot of hours. There are a whole slew of other Lance personnel who contributed and without their help we wouldn't have made it.

Finally I'd like to thank Kim Prenny for graciously extending out deadlines several times and the sponsorship of Carling O'Keefe Breweries and their campus rep Chris Vassos.

A farewell tribute to St. Denis Hall

by

Dick Moriarty and Gordon Olafson

The Students' Administrative Council is sponsoring this farewell tribute to St. Denis Hall. The occasion, Wednesday, February 18, 1981, accompanies the last regularly scheduled Ontario Universities Athletic Association (OUAA) game in St. Denis Hall. Ironically, this game finds the University of Windsor Lancers entertaining the University of Western Ontario Mustangs, the same team Windsor faced in opening the expanded St. Denis Hall in 1948.

For a century the spot on which St. Denis Hall stands has been the site of sports activities. In 1880 the Assumption College baseball team played here and by the turn of the century, soccer, rugby, handball and shinny (hockey) were conducted on this spot. In 1908 basketball was initiated at Assumption by Rev. W.J. Reach C.S.B., but games were played in a covered handball court just to the south of this location. The Assumption Review of 1908 described this early version of basketball as "a combination of football, rugby and wrestling, with one rule — you can only run for three seconds before passing or shooting the ball." The prophetic author stated "this College may have a good future in basketball."

In 1915 the original St. Denis Hall was built at a cost of approximately \$17,000 and dedicated to Archbishop Denis O'Connor, Founder and first President of the College. The Assumption College yearbook of 1915 points out that the original facility, the north half of the current gymnasium, was "60' x 106' with a 10' running track 10' off the floor, with windows all around on both stories." (*The Ologyian*, 1915: 81).

St. Denis Hall has been a gymnasium in the true sense of the Greek word: a facility for mental, physical and social development for the community. True to the "Goodness, Discipline and Knowledge" motto of Assumption College and the University of Windsor, St. Denis Hall has been a centre of excellence in academics, athletics and social activities.

Registration, examinations, and convocations have been held in St. Denis Hall, servicing and honouring graduates including statesmen John Diefenbaker, Lester Pearson, George Vanier, Pauline Vanier, Roland Michener and Paul Martin; artists Celia Franca, David Colville and William Kurelek; judge Thomas Zuber; scientist Hans Selye; educators Rev. Matthew Sheedy, C.S.B. Marshall McLuhan, Rev. E.C. Lebel, C.S.B.; and authors Morley Callaghan, Robertson Davies and poet E.J. Pratt.

Three academic programs had their origins in St. Denis Hall: Drama, under the direction of Dr. Cornelius Crowley and Prof. Dan Kelly; Fine Arts, founded by Prof. Joseph DeLauro; and Physical and Health Education (Human Kinetics), initiated by Dr. P.J. Galeaso. The Rev. N.J. Ruth, C.S.B., Dean of Arts, was involved in the development of all of these programs.

As Rev. Stanley Murphy, C.S.B. and archivist Al Lurier point out in their section of this program, St. Denis Hall has served the Christian Culture Series and the intellectual community well over the years.

James Shalen, Vice-President of the Students' Administrative Council, records the highlights of school and social events in St. Denis Hall. Big Name Bands at the Faculty of Arts Ball; speakers like Ralph Nader, Jane Fonda and Hans Selye; and entertainers of the calibre of Sammy Davis, Jr., Ike and Tina Turner, Gordon Lightfoot.

In sports, St. Denis Hall has serviced the community at large as well as those associated with the University. Doug Cowan, Bob Hanson and Randy and Sam Sasso highlight some of the memorable community athletic events held in St. Denis Hall. Tony Techko, in his Echoes from a Sainly Hall, recalls some of the great high school events and outstanding performers. In 1954 St. Denis Hall was the site of the first Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) basketball championships held outside of Toronto. In one of the most exciting and financially successful all-Ontario Championships, Patterson defeated the famed Niagara Falls Red Raiders. St. Denis Hall has provided a home for Windsor Secondary School Association (WSSA) and Southwestern Ontario Secondary School Association (SWOSSA) Championships for both boys and girls. Tony Techko's Foster Spartans won the first SWOSSA Championship in 1963. Laramington won the first girls' championship in that very same year. Of course the University of Windsor High School Invitational has brought the top eight teams in Ontario together at Christmas recess for the past twenty-four years in boys basketball and a decade in girls' volleyball and basketball.

College sports of the 20's and 30's are recalled by Bill Rogin and Red Nantals. Ken Fathers summarizes the Red Nantals era of the 40's, Hank Bissett's 60's, Bob Samaras and Eddi Chittaro's 60's and the Paul Thomas and Nick Grabowski 70's.

Marge Prpich, Women's Director of Sports and coach at the University throughout the 70's, recalls highlights of women's volleyball and basketball during the past decade. The rich heritage of the 50's and 60's when Mrs. William 'Sis' Thomson acted as coach is also summarized in this section.

Although basketball has been the main attraction for the general public, St. Denis Hall has served a number of other outstanding sports over the years.

Wrestling came into its own as a high school and university sport during the 60's and 70's under the capable guidance of people like Gino Fracas, Bill Hallett, Ole Sorensen and Denny Hrycaiko.

The University of Windsor has become a power in fencing over the past two decades thanks to the efforts of the Ciccotelli family (Tony, Michael and Bruno), Joe Gallagher and more recently Eli Sukunda.

Swimming, water polo and synchronized swimming all originated in the bathtub-size pool in the basement of St. Denis Hall, thanks to the coaching efforts of Nick Grabowski and Judy Green-Sarver. Just across the hall in the basement judo developed thanks to the efforts of Mino Yama and Major Albert Linnell.

A number of Ontario Intercollegiate Athletic Association, Ontario-Quebec Athletic Association and more recently Ontario Universities Athletic Association gold medalists utilized St. Denis Hall for practice, including Eric Perch — OIAA badminton champion; Harvey Barsanti and John Mickle — OQAA golf champions coached by Orv Perrault and Chris Hreljac and Robert Anderson coached by Bill Miles; and a number of gold medalists and all-stars in fencing, track and field and basketball.

Clinics in a variety of sports have brought world renowned coaches to St. Denis Hall, including Hec Creighton, Duffy Dougherty of Michigan State University, and Jack Mullenkoff of Purdue University in football; Adolph Rupp of Kentucky, Al McGuire of Marquette and Fred Taylor of Ohio State University in basketball; Jean Hoxie in tennis; Knute Logan of the University of Michigan in gymnastics; and many more.

From the beauty of the dance concerts of Judy Green-Sarver and Marliese Kimmerle to the excitement of the international competitions in basketball and volleyball, St. Denis Hall holds some great memories for all of us. From the gym rats to the sports spectators, we can recall many glorious moments and some sad moments. Soon it will be time to move on to a new time and a new era in a new facility. The future is uncertain, but promising. What is certain is that St. Denis Hall has left its mark as one of the great school sport and social facilities of Canada.



Top Row (L-R) L. Ryon, R. Howley, Mr. E.J. Tighe (mgr.) K. Finsel, C. Kelly. Bottom O. Mailoux G. Lodato, E.J. Dwyer.

"This college could have a future in basketball"

by Bill Rogin & Red Nantais

Basketball in the 20's and 30's at St. Denis Hall was the most important indoor sport activity of those decades at Assumption College.

Assumption College was mainly an Arts College run by the Basilian Order. The school itself was an affiliate of the University of Western Ontario and when one graduated, one's degree was granted by the London school.

The close proximity of Windsor to many schools across the border in Michigan allowed our local athletes to compete with these Michigan schools on an equal footing in three major activities — baseball, football and basketball.

For many years exhibition games were arranged with University of Detroit, Wayne University, Lawrence Institute of Technology and Detroit Institute of Technology. These were usually played on a home — and home basis.

Later on in the twenties, Assumption became a full-fledged member of the Michigan — Ontario Conference which was a powerful conference of small schools comprising — Assumption, Adrian, Battle Creek, Calvin College, Detroit Technology, Lawrence Technology, St. Mary's of Orchard Lake and later Ferris Institute. Again home and home games were the order of both football and basketball seasons. Intense rivalries were built up which lasted for many years.

In addition to the Michigan Ontario league schedule, exhibition games were scheduled with University of Detroit, Wayne State and sometimes tour-

ing universities from the midwest such as Loyola of Chicago who deigned to put us on their schedule because it meant they could pick up a night's lodging before they played University of Detroit.

To further augment the schedules, Assumption College also played in the Ontario Basketball Senior Men's Series which meant a most intense rivalry with in the city of Windsor itself for the right to advance into the Senior Men's Series with Toronto, St. Catharines or Ottawa and, if successful, to play off for the ultimate goal the Senior Canadian Men's Basketball Championship. Many nights the old St. Denis gym was literally packed to the rafters when the City Series took place. Former Assumption grads such as Ian Allison, Eddie Dawson, Red Menard now played for the opposition Windsor Alumni.

Perhaps a mention here should be made of one particular group. In 1933 a group assembled at Assumption that spread the name of Assumption College basketball from Montreal to Victoria B.C. The group was known as The Fighting Freshmen and consisted of Red Nantais who later coached for 13 years at Assumption, Toos Marasky, Don Desjarlais, Glen Sherman and Willie "Moose" Rogin. Although not a freshman Scrubby Aitchison, another Windsprite as all five of the freshmen were, transferred from University of Detroit and became a most important member of this team, coached by Reverend Father William P. McGee. This team won Ontario Championships in 1934 and 1935 advancing to the Eastern Canada finals in 1934 against Montreal and playing off for the Canadian Men's finals in Victoria B.C. losing to the Victoria Dominions in the finals.



Canada Men's Finals in British Columbia 1935 Back Row (L-R) Bill Rogin, Toos Marasky, Don Desjarlais, Fr. W.P. McGee (Coach), H. DeBord, Stanley "Red" Nantais, Glen Sherman. Front (L-R) G. Galsup, Scrubby Aitchison, Captain Harrison, B. Byrne.

A centre of Christian culture

by Al Lucier

The Christian Culture Series, a labour of love, was founded on the University of Windsor campus in 1934 by Rev. J. Stanley Murphy, C.S.B., CM, D.S.L., LL.D., who was a member of the faculty of Assumption College.

Fr. Murphy who will celebrate 50 years in the priesthood this year has continued ever since 1934 as Advisor and Honourary Chairman.

The Christian Culture Series aims to foster the true, the good, and the beautiful, for such things reflect their divine origin, influence personal growth, and redound to the glory of the Creator.

The program each year combines enlightenment with entertainment. The close to 500 presentations over the years have brought to Windsor and Detroit eminent philosophers, theologians, writers, poets, statesmen, scientists, artists and musicians. Many of these events were held in St. Denis Hall. Among them were the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen who opened the Series for 38 years and wrote "The mission of the priest is to bring God to man and man to God. None play this double role better than my good friend Fr. J. Stanley Murphy, who through his Christian Culture Series has brought a knowledge of ends to a world that generally thinks only of means. May God prosper and bless him for even more abundant harvests in the years to come." Others include Frank J. Sheed, the great author, publisher and lecturer from England, Bartlett and Robertson, The Margaret Webster Players, and the Hart House Orchestra with George Haddad as soloist.

The National Ballet of Canada has appeared twice on the Series, and the Detroit Symphony has come to Windsor 65 times. The character of Christian Culture (Christian Civilization) is all embracing.

The series is still a non-profit organization supported by voluntary donations from Windsor and Detroit sponsors, members and subscribers. Fr. Murphy has stated that without them there would be no Series.

The Christian Culture Series Gold Medal

International in scope, this Christian Culture Award Gold Medal was co-founded by Rev. J. Stanley Murphy, C.S.B. and Rev. V.J. Guinan, C.S.B., the President of Assumption College in 1940-41. It was an outgrowth of the Christian Culture Series. It was decided that, once a year only, this International Award would be bestowed on "some outstanding law-exponent of Christian ideals." The list of the particular Medalists to date, forty in all, shows how really international and coveted this Award has become.

Complete information on the spirit of Assumption College and the remarkable first seven seasons of the Christian Culture Series was sent to Belgian-born art-



ist Adelaide De Bethune by Father Murphy. He also included his ideas of the Award-Medal and confidential information on the identity of the world-renowned first recipient. A. DeBethune enlisted artist Graham Carey to collaborate with her in the proper design for such a Medal. Some years later, artist Ferenc Varga was asked to create a permanent matrix whence the annual Medal would be made. He introduced a human hand to suggest the human co-operation expected by God in the coming of His Kingdom.

On one side of the Medal is a human hand and the mustard plant mentioned by Jesus as a symbol of His Kingdom; on the other side of the Medal: the name of the Medalist, the year surrounded by "Christian Culture Award" Assumption University.

The first Christian Culture Award Medal was presented in 1941 to SIGRID UNDET, the famed Norwegian Nobel Prize novelist and refugee from the invading Nazis. The thirty-nine recipients after SIGRID UNDET are listed in order: Jacques Maritain, PHILIP MURRAY, FRANK H. SHEED, ARNOLD M. WALTER, CHRISTOPHER DAWSON, JOHN C. H. WU, CHARLES MALIK, IVAN MESTROVIC, F.W. FOERSTER, PAUL MARTIN, ROBERT SPEAIGHT, ALLEN TATE, BARBARA WARD, JOHN COGLEY, PETER DRUCKER, BENJAMIN E. MAYS, JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, WILLIAM F. ALBRIGHT, KARL STERN, JOHN HOWARD GRIFFIN, EDITH K. PETERKIN, MIRCEA ELIADE, JAMES D. COLLINS, DORTHY DAY, MARSHALL McLUHAN, JAMES M. CAMERON, JEAN VANIER, ROBERT J. KREYCHE, JOHN T. NOONAN, JR., DOROTHY DONNELLY, WILLIAM KUR-ELEK, ANTHONY (Tony) WALSH, MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE, CONRAD W. BAARS, M.D. This year the gold medal will go to Rosemary Haughton recognized in Europe and North America as a pioneer in theological thinking.

Student events rocked the old floors

by Jim Shaban

St. Denis Hall, known to most as the home of the Canadian and Ontario Championship, University of Windsor Lancer Basketball Team has seen many exciting moments that we all will cherish for as long as we live. To the people in the Students' Administrative Council, it was a huge hall that opened a huge problem of what to do with it when the buzzer went off ending a long, hard battle on the basketball court.

The building which holds 1,500 people was not big enough to attract the big names, but still we were able to pack in the house for such celebrities as Sammy Davis, Jr., Ike and Tina Turner, Dan Hill, Ralph Nader. Other student groups like O.P.J.R.O. helped bring in Harry Chapin to help the cause of occupation health hazards.

In the earlier days when dances were the thing to be at the Faculty of Arts Student Society held Arts Balls which were a big success in the 1940's and 50's. The event attracted so many people that on some occasions, people wished we had a larger hall, larger hall.

Many clubs also participated in the new building holding intramural sports programs and sports competitions among other student clubs. Whoever was involved in the Student Government, CJAM or Lancer could never forget the highly intensive scrimmage



Gordon Lightfoot serenaded St. Denis back in '69.

Basketball Game between the two.

As the Students' Administrative Council looks into the future and the events that can take place in the new St. Denis Hall, we will always cherish what we had done in St. Denis and the many hours it has brought to our students.



Even in the fifties students packed St. Denis to hear the keenest groups around.

An athletic centre with character

by Ken Fathers
Windsor Star Sports Reporter

Old St. Denis Hall, I'm going to be sorry to see it go.

I was only three years into my journalistic career when this athletic centre at Assumption College was opened in 1948.

At the time, it was the showplace of Canadian intercollegiate basketball. No other school in the old Ontario-Quebec Athletic Association had a facility which could seat 2,600 comfortably and accommodate another 500 standees.

It is little wonder that, after many years of trying, Assumption was admitted into the O-QAA (now the Ontario Universities Athletic Association) a couple of years after the completion of this building.

Old St. Denis Hall, now a dismal replica of its once-elegant self, has been the scene of many outstanding individual performances and many thrilling games through the years.

It's not easy to forget that very first season, 1947-48, when Freddie Thomas, undoubtedly the greatest player to ever wear an Assumption College or University of Windsor uniform, scored 47 points in an Ontario Amateur Basketball Association senior men's playoff game against Toronto YMHA.

Thomas roamed the key area with a grace of a swan and the agility of a gazelle.

It is not easy to forget those famous Assumption-University of Windsor rivalries with the University of Western Ontario Mustangs when more than 3,000 spectators would storm the doors. Those were memorable occasions when you had to arrive at the gym before 6 p.m. to gain admittance for an 8:15 game.

It is not easy to forget the great parade of basketball talent who have worn Assumption-University of Windsor uniforms through the years.

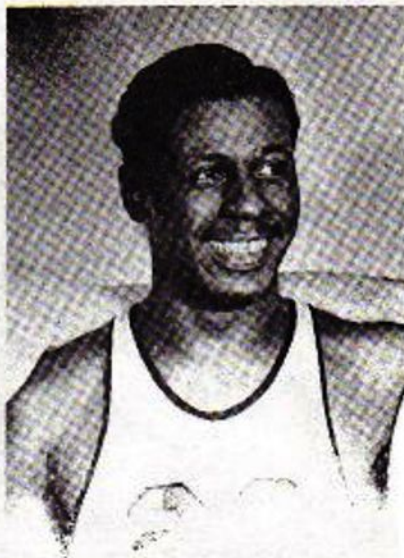
People like Thomas, Ado Roral, Dick MacKenzie, Howie Triano, George Joseph, Jerry Kotwas, Leo Innocente, Gene Rizak, Bob Horvath, Marty Kwitkowski, Chris Wydrzynski, Sante Salvador and Jerry Sovran come immediately to mind.

And, let's not forget some of the opposition players who helped to provide all those thrills of conference games of the past — Dave West and Peter Potter of Toronto, Russ Jackson of McMaster, Ray Monnot and Doug Williamson of Western and Mike Moser of Waterloo.

Old St. Denis Hall was the scene of the first two Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union (CIAU) basketball championships in 1962 and 1963. Windsor, then coached by Bob Samaras, won them both.

The Samaras era, in fact, produced four national championships in six years. They were the golden days of Lancer basketball.

From March 3, 1961 through Jan. 14, 1970, U. of W. teams won 51 consecutive conference games on



Freddie Thomas, left his mark in campus sports history. Thomas later played with the Harlem Globetrotters.

their home court. And, how can we forget the sad plight of McMaster Marauders who, between Feb. 15, 1961 and Feb. 22, 1970, lost 19 straight visits to the St. Denis Hall court.

Visiting coaches and players have often referred to Old St. Denis Hall as "The Pit." But, the building which is about to fade into oblivion as an athletic centre has a lot of character.

Where else can you view a basketball game from such close range? Where else can a coach blister an official without even getting off the bench? Where else can you heave a long pass up-court and hit the low-hanging girders or light fixtures?

We're all going to miss Old St. Denis Hall with its dim lights, bouncy floor and creaky bleachers. I suspect that University of Windsor basketball will never be the same without this historic place of combat.

There is only one St. Denis Hall, the original, at the centre of the campus adjacent to the University Centre. Replacing it with a new cosmetic edifice over on the South Campus is necessary, but, in fact, a shame.

Always the warmth of "home"

by Randy and Sam Sasso

Richard Steele felt "there are so few who can grow old with a good grace".

Certainly St. Denis Hall must be one of these few who fit into this privileged and lofty position. Although time may have darkened slightly the red brick structure and loosened a floorboard or two, these deficiencies have been superceded by numerous dramatic confrontations, boundless thrills, and a lifetime of memories. Whether player, coach, or fan, the dream of a major basketball triumph in the city of Windsor seems inevitably set in the confines of this intimidating building.

The scratchy strains of "O Canada" have tipped off a succession of quality and excitement and much to our pleasure we have been very fortunate and exceedingly proud that some of our accomplishments have been attained under this roof. Teams who have dressed below that echoing floor and entered by those steep grey steps cannot help but feel they are the ordained representatives of our community as the "Home" team at St. Denis Hall. The players who suited up for AKO sensed this importance when the scoreboard in the southwest corner of the gym was lit up.

During our tenure with AKO, we hosted the provincial championships of 1976, 1977, and 1978 as well as the national tournament of 1977 at St. Denis Hall. The contests produced some gratifying achievements for our teams in addition to some outstanding personal performances.

In 1976, Ottawa was the opponent in the final of a round robin tournament that included an entries from Hamilton and London. The game matched a pair of teams who had split two previous contests, a triple overtime loss to this adversary from the nation's capital and a miraculous one point victory for the gold medal at the Ontario Winter Games in Sealt Ste. Marie the previous month. Again we were taken down to the final five seconds when a driving layup by Ed Bialek sealed the verdict and sent us to Winnipeg for our third national title.

Waterloo, Ottawa, and Hamilton headed for the campus in 1977 but found us unfriendly hosts. We played one of our finest games and humbled a fine Waterloo team in the final. John Ritchie, Dan Bortolin, and Mike McKinley were tournament all stars as we prepared to defend our national title right here at home. Successive victories over Nova Scotia and Newfoundland brought us to the Canadian final against the representative from Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg. Although a somewhat troublesome foe, the outside shooting skills of McKinley and Doug Austen and the all around play of Ritchie and Carlo Barzotto brought the nets down at St. Denis Hall.

With a returning cast that included Ritchie, Austen, Kevin Grier, and Ruben Ferrone our chance to

defend the title looked good in '78. When we added Phil Hermanutz and Duane Matthews from Riverside and Stan Korosec, a former Brennan standout, we fielded our strongest team ever. The Ontario championship that year was a showcase of that talent and there was no better place to display these gifted performers than on those familiar hardwoods. Four of the five places on the all star team went to our players. Matthews, Austen, Korosec, and Ritchie led the hardware grab that vaulted us to Newfoundland and a fifth national championship.

Amateur basketball has had a great friend in the University of Windsor and St. Denis Hall. We at AKO have been fortunate enough to have had a fine relationship with coaches Thomas and Grabowski that have afforded us scrimmage time with the Lancers and frequent skirmishes with the Crusaders. From these visits, we have learned the problems a visitor can face in this portentous structure.

Much, however, will be lost on a personal level. We enjoyed being grouped with the fans in this gym. These slatted seats have left an impression during a multitude of high school tournaments and intercollegiate games. Great pride is felt when cheering the Lancers who once wore our colours.

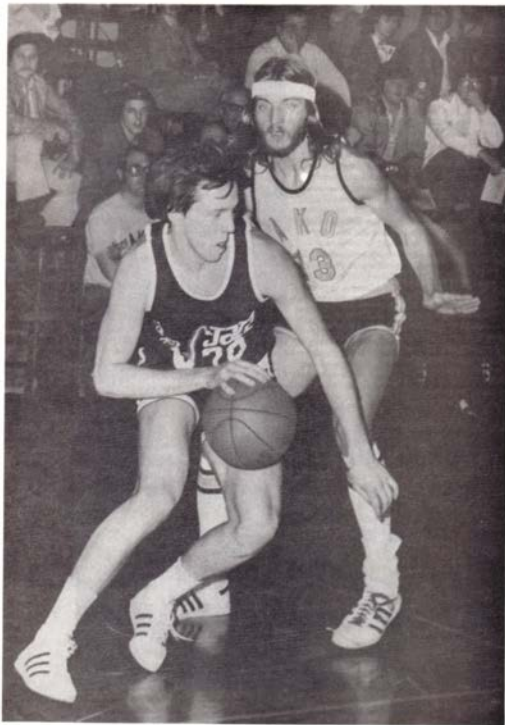
There are not many gyms anywhere that afford such proximity to the action. Certainly one cannot but miss this closeness and sentimentality. In this monument to great basketball numerous fans can bear witness to moments of exhilaration and frustration.

The psychological edge

by Bob Hanson

Our Senior men's team has played under various names as sponsors became available - Wansborough's, Windsor Alumni, Whales Bridge House, Thompson's Sport Centre and our present sponsor, Yankee's Bar B Q. But the main criteria has always been the same with the nucleus of the team made up of University of Windsor grads.

It was always to our advantage to play in dimly lit St. Denis Hall. There was that mystique that the players could feel, that added "oomph," knowing where the soft spots were on the floor, closeness of the over partial crowd and the feel that the ball would bounce your way. It was coming home to where things were always friendly. It was in these friendly confines that our team won the Canadian Senior Men's Championships in 1969. We have won Ontario Championships at St. Denis Hall in 1971 and 1972, knowing that playing in this gym was like starting with a 10 point advantage.



Establishing Women's volleyball

by Marge Holman Pypich

St. Denis Hall has been known by tradition as Windsor's home of basketball. But through recent years, it has also become Windsor's home for volleyball enthusiasts, hosting numerous tournaments and clinics for players, coaches and officials. In 1973, volleyball, specifically for women, entered a growth spurt. The University of Windsor's St. Denis Hall became the home of the annual Can-Am Tournaments for University Women's teams both north and south of the border. The Girls' High School Invitational Tournament has also been hosted annually in St. Denis Hall for Windsor and Essex and Kent County schools.

As interest and skill in volleyball continued to grow, Windsor Essex County volleyball Association was established. St. Denis Hall became their home. Working cooperatively with the university to provide clinics and competition for the growth, development and promotion of the sport, St. Denis Hall was often buzzing with activity. At times, there have been seven courts set up for clinics with as many as seventy-two players developing their skills. This is incredible for the size of St. Denis Hall!

Windsor's volleyball community has established itself in the province and has gained respect for its organization on the Canadian scene as well. In addition



Cookie Leach

to hosting regional and provincial qualifying tournaments for age division and calibre competition, Wind-

CONTINUED PAGE 13



1962 Womens Basketball. Mary Beth Martin, Barb Macedorski, Judy Stefonsky, Carol Wilkinson, Morie Picie, Irene Montespetia, Ingrid Stahl, Mary Jo Gleason, Kathy Hartford, Sheila Blair, Coach Sis Thompson.

A new era in women's sports

by Marge Holman Prpich



The 60's provided a broad scope of sport activities for women at the University of Windsor. With Mrs. Sis Thomas serving as Assistant Athletic Director, women's athletics developed rapidly. On campus, the Women's Athletic Council, comprised of students and guided by Sis, supervised intercollegiate and intramural programs. During this time the University of Windsor was represented by teams in the intercollegiate league structure of the O-Q CWIA, the Ontario Quebec Conference of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics. Badminton, basketball, swimming and volleyball teams often travelled together to compete in massive sportsdays with the total league membership. The competitive spirit was supplemented with a social element as competitions were always followed with banquets where teams would eat, sing and present skits. In the late 60's, Mrs. Judy (Green) Sarver became the Assistant Athletic Director for Women. In 1970, the conception of a new league structure was revealed. Canadian universities were now to be aligned provincially. This resulted in the merger of the Ontario universities of the O-QCWIA and the infamous WIAU. Functioning on a trial basis in 1970-71 as WITCA, Women's Intercollegiate Two Conference Association, this structure became permanent the following year and was renamed the Ontario Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Association (O.W.I.A.A.). With a new league and again a new Women's Athletic Director, Mrs. Marge (Holman) Prpich, the University of Windsor joined the rest of the province in a new emerging era for women's sport.

Today, the O.W.I.A.A. remains the organizational structure within which our intercollegiate athletes compete. Basketball and volleyball teams have found their home within the walls of St. Denis Hall. It is with mixed emotion that we say farewell to the tradition, triumphs and frustrations of St. Denis Hall and grow with excitement and enthusiasm to build a new home in our new facility.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

sor was given the honour of hosting an international tri-tournament in the summer of 1979. St. Denis Hall attracted over 800 fans to watch the Canadian-Holland-West German National Women's teams compete, with our Canadian Women emerging victorious.

As we bid farewell to St. Denis Hall, we look ahead to a new home. We shall miss St. Denis — players will miss being blinded by the basketball spotlights as they look up for the ball, or they will miss hitting those beams with a perfectly bumped serve

reception; and officials will miss hanging themselves on those net supporting guidewires! But despite a few hardships, St. Denis offered a cozy tradition that truly will be missed. Many volleyball enthusiasts from over the years, along with Windsor Essex County Volleyball Association, say thanks to the University of Windsor and pay tribute to St. Denis Hall for the many memories to be cherished for years to come.

St. Denis Hall — a great thrill for High School athletes

by Doug Cowan

The last of the Lancers left the confines of St. Denis Hall at approximately 8:30 PM. Only the team manager was left to put away the equipment and lock up the gym. My buddy Tom and myself waited at least 10 full minutes before emerging from our hiding place behind the collapsing stands. We inched our way over to the main light switches, picked the one that centered on the beautiful glass backboard and stayed to shoot baskets until 11:00. This was an event that took place at least twice a week. We would always make sure the lights were turned out and the gym locked before we left.

I can honestly say that those days in the middle 1950's were my first of many fond recollections of St. Denis Hall. As a 13 year old, the immensity of the gym held a majesty to my friends and me. I look back on those days with special memories.

As I grew older the thought of playing in St. Denis Hall became more of a reality than a dream. In

1959 I got my first taste of the wooden floor when our school, J.L. Forster Collegiate, was invited to the Holiday Christmas tournament. We didn't win but I finally got my first chance to play in St. Denis in the final minute of the semi-playoff game.

One of the greatest thrills was to win both W.S.S.A. and S.W.O.S.S.A. in 1961 under the friendly arms of St. Denis. I know that even today our high school athletes look forward to games there. It will be sadly missed by future ball players.

As coach of AKO for 5 years, I could feel the anticipation of my players (many of whom attended the University of Windsor) waiting to play exhibition games against the Crusaders.

To sum up my feelings, I can say that St. Denis Hall will hold a special place in my heart as a 13 year old gym rat, a high school player for Forster and as a coach for AKO. All memories effect me in a different way, but all add up to a total good feeling and memory.



High School team of 1939.

Echoes of a Saintly Hall

by Tony Techko

Father Denis O'Connor,
For almost two decades we're told,
From 1870 to 1888,
Built a school in the Basilian mold,
For high school boys, for college boys.

Dr. James Naismith,
Set peach baskets in Springfield,
In winter's cold of 1891.
For many a lad and many a doll,
Dreamed up the game of basketball.

Father W. J. Roach,
Introduced Assumption to basketball.
In 1908 with precision passing adroit,
By a resounding score of 26-12,
Vanquished the All-Stars of Detroit.

Father F. Forster,
Expanded the College he lauded.
In 1915, St. Michael's Hall,
And a new gymnasium were applauded,
The old St. Denis Hall.

Father John O'Loane,
Pleasingly approved the plan,
In 1948, to enlarge the span,
The hallowed hall,
The new St. Denis Hall.

The passing parade,
In decades came,
To play the game,
Enshrined in everlasting local fame.

The Twenties,
Gordon Aitchison, Ian Allison,
Father Charles Armstrong,
Ray Beaton, Bill Butcher,
Eddie Dawson, Carl Dettman,
Harry Dickson, Frank Dowd,
Al Edwards, Gourlay Howell,
Julius Goldman, Clarence Kenny,
Don King, Tony Kramer,
Eddie Marchand, Red Merand,
Joe Mencil, Johnny Murray,
Balfour Philp, Whitey Pendlebury,
Walter Perry, Glenn Sherman,
Ed Skrzucki, Archie Stewart,
Jimmy Stewart, George Taylor,
Frank Turville, Tom Wetzell,
Bill Young.



Gerry Schen and Jack Dulmage at 1st SWOSSA Championship.

The Thirties,
Butch Barbesin, Hank Biasatti,
Jack Blair, Mort Bunnell,
Sul Crocker, Don Desjarlais,
Jimmy Farmer, Phil Fields,
Ted Gambriel, Tony Golab,
Don Gray, Archie Green,
Jack Harris, Al Hurley,
Joe Krol, Bill Little,
Garnet McCann, Mickey McMillan,
Irving Meretsky, Stanley Nantais,
Phil Neal, Norbert Nickerson,
Don Nixon, Bernie Parent,
Willie Rogin, Cliff Rose,
Don Stewart, Frank Wansbrough,
Tommy White, Malcolm Wiseman,
Marcus Wood, Steve Zepka,
John Zerbin.

The Fourties,
Doug Bell, Bill Bridgeman,
Clarence Britten, Jack Bruce,
Bill Coulthard, Hugh Cowan,
Albert DeLuca, Gerald Duck,
Chris Ellis, Jack Hayles,
Joe Horoky, Ian Howie,
Jerry Kennedy, Pat Kennedy,
Bob Krol, Frank Marchand,
Eddie Miles, Jack Morkin,
Bill Pataky, Bob Phibbs,
Elmer Robitaille, Ado Roral,
Don Scott, Jack Shuttleworth,
Bob Simpson, Gino Sovran,
Fred Thomas, Ray truant,
Harry Wade, Harrison Waugh,
Fraser Webster, Charlie Wells,
Wendell Wigle.

The Fifties,

Fred August, Reno Bertoia,
Clayton Brent, Ron Brown,
Eddi Chittaro, Rupert Cooke,
Mike Drebot, Gene Dziadara,
Tom Echlin, Ambrose Gardner,
Bob Gardner, Tommy Grant,
Bob Hanson, Mal Hodges,
Jack Hool, Barry Howson,
Leo Innocente, Zeno Karca,
Larry Karpiuk, Roy Landrye,
Don Long, Neil MacEwan,
Gord Mair, John Morris,
Harold Newton, Wilbert Ott,
Bucky Parent, Cal Pearson,
Ed Petryshyn, Richard Rau,
Don Rideout, Gene Rizzik,
Gil Robinson, Bryon Rourke,
Mike Semancik, Rance Smetton,
Jim Stewart, Whit Tucker,
John Upham, Lou Veres,
Paul Valentine, Gary Weir,
Ted Zalba.



Doug Cowan and Teammates.

The Sixties,

Art Armstrong, Andy Auch,
Bob Bellare, Bob Benetieu,
Jack Bolzan, Doug Brown,
Mike Chalut, Joe Clark,
Rick Cloutier, Ted Collins,
Bruce Coulthard, John Craig,
Bob Croft, Jon Elcombe,
Larry Gardner, Phil Goggins,
Bill Hadley, Bill Hamilton,
Tom Henderson, Gerry Horner,
Darryl Hudson, Ron Innocente,
Fred Jankauskas, Stan Krete,
Roman Kwiatkowski, Peter Lapsley,
Walter Lozynsky, Gary McDonald,
Bill MacInnis, Perry Mann,
Peter Mingay, Dave Mollard,
Wayne Morgan, Andy Parichi,
Cliff Reaume, Al Rollo,
Todd Romlens, George Sadler,
Sante Salvador, Gerry Schen,
Dennis Smith, Doug Stocco,
Gary Ulliony, Al Wierneck.

The Seventies,

Paul Bellis, Ed Bialek,
Rob Biasutto, Dan Bortolin,
Don Brkovich, Mike Brkovich,
Al Brown, Jim Chase,
Wayne Churchill, D'Arcy Colbreath,
Dan Devin, Annie Doimo,
Mark Fedikow, Bob Hogan,
Hunt Hool, Bakhus Isaac,
Andy Kiss, Mark Krudsen,
Stan Korosec, Mike Kristalovich,
Andy Laliberty, Peter Lambropoulos,
Greg LaRoque, Wayne Lauzon,
John Lukis, Al Mejauskas,
Brian Marshal, Ross Miles,
Mike Moser, Larry Oliver,
Brian Pienderleith, Ron Purdy,
Cliff Robinson, Fred Robson,
David Roth, Wayne Samson,
Rob Samuels, Rick Scott,
Bob Sebers, Dan Sherron,
Mark Smith, Pat Smith,
Jerry Sowran, Pat Stogua,
Bruce Walker, Richard Wells.

The passing parade,

In decades came,

To play the game, to honour,

The hallowed hall of Father Denis O'Connor.

***Soon, we will have
a new kind of activity centre ...***

